

MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 4, NO. 10

MARCH 11-17

Funk-Lawler to End Era

MEMPHIS CIRCUIT LEAVES HOME IN MID-SOUTH COLISEUM

It's the place where Andy Kaufman became a wrestling legend. The house where Jim Cornette and Jimmy Hart were launched to stardom. An arena where Hulk Hogan was once defeated. And a building which saw its last wrestling sellout in 1988 when Jerry Lawler defeated Curt Hennig for the AWA world championship.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

MID-SOUTH COLISEUM DICKERS WITH WCW

MEMPHIS---Mid-South Coliseum officials are negotiating with World Championship Wrestling to become the prime ring tenant for the building.

With Jerry Jarrett's USWA wrestling leaving the Coliseum (see story above) after a dispute with building managers, MSC is attempting to fill 50 annual dates.

Coliseum manager Beth Wade is attempting to get a monthly commitment from WCW but the Atlanta-based group may not be able to fulfill 12 dates.

LANDELL BOUNCED FROM WCW ROSTER

ATLANTA---Buddy Landell is out of World Championship Wrestling after an alleged incident in a night spot.

Landell, who originally was suspended by WCW assistant booker Terry Allen, has been contacting other organizations about work.

Specifics concerning the incident were not available but MATWATCH has been told the decision was made before WRESTLE WAR '91.

BARR, ARNOLD BOW OUT OF WRESTLEMANIA

ATLANTA---Comedienne Roseanne Barr and her husband Tom Arnold, both originally scheduled (Continued on Page 4)

But like much of pro wrestling in the last seven years, another era is ending. Monday night's USWA card at the Mid-South Coliseum was the last for the Jerry Jarrett organization after 13 years in the arena. The decision for Jarrett to leave the coliseum was reportedly made two weeks ago and ends six months of bickering between the Jarrett group and coliseum manager Beth Wade.

A rift developed late last summer between the wrestling company and Wade when crowds became unruly in the building. Jerry Lawler asked for alcohol sales to be suspended for the Monday night cards. Wade agreed to a temporary ban but was dissatisfied because the suspension cut into revenues for the Coliseum Authority.

Wade was hired last June as coliseum manager. Coliseum officials also face the loss of Memphis State University basketball, a big attendance draw. The Tigers move to the new Great American Pyramid in downtown Memphis next season.

The Jarrett-Wade dispute not only involves beer sales but other amenities. For years, Memphis wrestling fans enjoyed free parking at the coliseum on Monday nights. Wade instituted a \$2 parking fee and coliseum officials also increased a surcharge on all tickets from 50 cents to \$1.25. Security costs also increased for Jarrett.

The dispute spilled over into THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL, the Memphis daily newspaper, last Wednesday when the story of the Jarrett decision broke. In the story by APPEAL writer Phil Stunkenborg, Jarrett called Wade "unquestionably the worst person I've ever dealt with in 32 years of the wrestling business." Wade told Stunkenborg she was shocked at Jarrett's decision, adding, "It came as quite a surprise because it had been such a long-term relationship." The late Nick Gulas promoted in the MSC dating back to 1968.

Jarrett cited the increasing user fees as the reason his crowds have declined. The promoter told the newspaper, "A \$7 ringside ticket became \$8.25 and along with a \$2 parking charge, if a single person drove up to the coliseum it cost him \$10.25."

But other insiders suggest the root of the problem is the city, with the loss of the Memphis State games and facing more big-ticket events going to the Pyramid, could no longer afford to give wrestling favored financial status. "Beth Wade is strictly trying to keep the building on a solid footing financially," said one official who declined to be named. Another source close to the promotion says, "Behind all the smoke, the fact is, Jerry can no longer afford the costs. He hasn't come close to a sellout in three years and when you can sit home and watch 15 hours a week of wrestling for free on TV with bigger stars, you're not going to go to a weekly wrestling show. They weren't drawing big crowds even before the fees went up."

(Continued on Page 2)



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STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

In fact, the four-week series in January and February reviving the Fabulous Ones and Cornette in the building drew a high of only \$7,500 and a low of \$4,800. The crowd for the March 4 show drew an estimated \$11,200.

Jarrett and Wade have also exchanged public disputes over crowd behavior in the MSC. Jarrett told the APPEAL Wade has told Lawler wrestling "drew an undesirable element. If our fans are undesirable, we are undesirable." Wade denies ever making the statement but said the complaints had come from other fans attending the shows.

Jarrett and Lawler are negotiating to move into a 3,000-seat building at the Mid-South Fairgrounds, not far from the coliseum. Some veteran ringsiders who have seen the USWA crowds dwindle say the move will be better and make Monday nights not seem so sparse. But longtimers feel it's also time Jarrett concedes he can't continue to maintain a weekly card in Memphis with success.

MATWATCH contacted Cornette at his Charlotte, N.C., home Thursday night and he lamented the end of the era. "I still hope they can work something out," said Cornette. "Of course, when we went in there in January, you could tell it wasn't quite the same---not just that the houses were down. But the people just sat there during a lot of the show and it wasn't like it used to be."

Cornette believes the hardcore fans will hang with Jarrett, even with a move to an agricultural exhibition building, but believes the aura is probably over. "They'll realize pretty quick it won't be the same as the Coliseum," said Cornette. "You'd think the coliseum people would be doing everything they could to make the wrestling people happy, since they're in there 50 times a year."

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On Saturday's WMC-TV edition of USWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, the issue of the final MSC show was soft-pedaled (see MATWATCHING, page 5, and TUBE TALK, page 6). Speculation is any sharp criticism, if forthcoming, will either be saved until next week's TV show or shelved altogether as WMC maintains a relationship with the coliseum as a sponsor of non-wrestling events during the year.

Late Night with Bam Bam

BIGELOW DRY WITS

THROUGH KATZ SHOW

BALTIMORE---The man with lightning bolts on his head and wrestling outfit has humor drier than the Mojave Desert.

Scott (Bam Bam) Bigelow guested Saturday night on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW on WCBM-AM in Baltimore. The one-liners were subtle but sharp.

When asked by co-host Jerry Moshenberg if Bigelow used video tape to scout his opponents, Bam Bam answered, "Nah. I'm going to work at the Pinta Hotel tomorrow (for the UWF). The only reason I popped in a tape was to see what Herb Abrams looked like. I didn't see much."

Asked by Katz where he was going from the show, Bigelow said, "Gee, I hope I'm going to sleep."

Katz questioned, "Do you know who you're wrestling tomorrow?" Bigelow: "Boy, I sure hope not."

Bigelow said he was looking forward to next Thursday's Egg Dome match, teamed with Big Van Vader against Ron Simmons and Butch Reed, though Reed's status for the match is up in the air. If the DOOM-Vader/Bigelow match is staged with Simmons and Reed, MATWATCH has been told it will likely be edited out of the SUPERSHOW pay-per-view tape delay of the show on Viewer's Choice April 7.

YOU SAID IT!!!

Thank you so much for your editorials on chauvinism! I love wrestling a great deal and feel fortunate that Sandy Krebs allows me to write for his magazine. However, some of situations women are put in are embarrassing and degrading.

I LIKE Missy Hyatt as a person. She has always been involved in charity work and seems like a very decent human being. However, during her career, she has played the dumb blonde role to the hilt. The arm wrestling contest with Paul E. had my blood pressure going through the roof. What should have been good comic relief turned into a peep show when Missy took her jacket off. I appreciate Jim Ross apologizing for his pathetic remarks. I expect more from him....I give this advice to all commentators: next time you start to make a sexist remark, pretend that's YOUR daughter on the receiving end and see how funny it is.

CARLIE GILL
ANCHORAGE AK

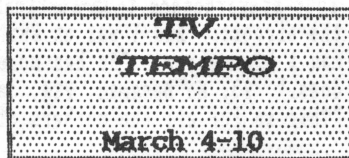
Chill out on the women's issue, Steve! If wrestling listens to you, it'll be as sanitized as a school toilet.

RYAN WILLIAMS
SAN ANGELO TX

(Mail to YOU SAID IT! must be signed and properly addressed. Letters will be edited for length, taste and profanity.)

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(WWF/SYN) - [SPOTLIGHT]:

Big Bossman d. Alan Martin;

(UPDATE) Hart Foundation-

Nasty Boys; Legion of Doom-Power & Glory; (VIDEO) The Dragon; Rick Martel d. Dale Wolfe; (BRO. LUV) Ultimate Warrior destroys Bruce's set & stretchers him out with three splashes in ring; Undertaker d. Tommy Angel; (SEGMENT) Curt Hennig bowls perfect 300; Greg Valentine d. Dino Bravo by DQ; Davey Boy Smith d. Mike Wallace. RESTHOLD.

[CHALLENGE]: L.O.D. d. Alan Reynolds/Shinji; Smith d. Scott Allen; Undertaker d. Brian Costello; Hennig d. Pat Armstrong; Orient Express d. Jim Powers/Lancaster; (WM7 REPORT). BOMB-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Hart Foundation d. John Martin/Sanchez; (UPDATE) Virgil decks Ted DiBiase at ROYAL RUMBLE; Mountie d. Dan Brazil; Bossman d. Brooklyn Brawler; (SEGMENT) Sgt. Slaughter/Gen. Adnan burn Hulk Hogan T-shirt; Jimmy Snuka d. Shinji; Haku/Barbarian d. Randy Hunter/Dale Wolfe; (WM7 REPORT). RESTHOLD.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - El Vampiro Canadiense/Ponzona/Gargola el Sultan d. Huracan Sevilla/Javier Cruz/Ciclón Ramirez 2-3; Perro Aguayo/Kimela/Mascara Ano Dos Mil d. Konan/Lizmark/Black Magic 2-3 falls; (NWA WORLD WELTERWEIGHT TITLE) El Gallo Tapado double DQ vs. Fuerza Guerrera; (HAIR VS. HAIR) Kato Kung Lee I d. Kung Fu 2-3. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA/ESPN) - Tom Prichard d. Khris Germany; (TEXAS TITLE) Bill Dundee d. Awesome Kong to retain belt but Eric Embry demands immediate shot and defeats Bill for belt; (SOUTHERN TITLE) Jeff Jarrett d. Eddie Gilbert by DQ when Eddie uses knucks; (TEXAS TITLE REMATCH) Dundee d. Embry by DQ when Gary Young runs in. Billy Travis saves. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [LPWA TITLE] Lady X d. Susan Sexton 2-3 falls to win belt when Ashley Kennedy holds Sexton's leg; (6-MAN) Hosaka/Rush/Beast d. Judy Martin/Lelani Kai/Candi Divine; Reggie Bennett d. Denise Storm; Terri Power d. Black Venus. DRAW.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Cody Michaels d. Ed Robinson; [TEXAS TITLE] Dundee d. Embry by DQ when Young runs in. Travis saves; Steve Austin d. Danny Davis w. legs on ropes; [SOUTHERN TITLE] Jarrett d. Gilbert by DQ when J.C. Ice runs in. Awesome Kong splashes on Jeff's leg until Dundee/Travis save; Travis d. Kong by DQ when Embry, Young run in. Jarrett/Dundee save until Prichard runs in. Davis evens it up. RESTHOLD. [BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Jarrett d. Sgt. O'Reilly; U.S. Males d. Keith Eric/The Scorpion; Embry/Tom Prichard d. Freezer Thompson/Gary Jackson; Austin draw vs. Dundee. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Nick Busich d. James Myers; (GA. TAG TOURNEY) PYTs d. M-16s; (From LPWA) Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan d. Storm/Fox; Fabian d. Avenger I; (GA. TAG TOURNEY) Blazers d. Jim Powell/Pestus. RESTHOLD.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Nick Bockwinkel draw vs. Brad Rheingans; Joyce Grable/Wendi Richter d. Divine/Martin; Road Warriors d. Hennig/Nord the Barbarian. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - Iceman Parsons d. Jack Victory (rerun); Hurricane d. G.Q. Madison; Ivan/Scott Putski d. Bill Davis/Don Maxx (rerun); Zip/Zap/Bob Orton Jr. d. Doom/Ken Patera/Joe Savoldi. BOMB-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Sid Vicious d. David Isley; Dustin Rhodes d. Rob Morgan; Big Josh d. Cruel Connection; (CLIP) DOOM splits, Butch Reed/Teddy Long strap Ron Simmons;

[WNN] Gordon Solie w. Sting-Larry Zbyszko brawl, Dissension in York Foundation; (WCW 6-MAN TAG TITLE) Junkyard Dog/Ricky Morton/Tommy Rich d. Buddy Landell/Bobby Eaton/Terrence Taylor when Bobby steps on computer & Landell/Taylor clothesline Bobby. Buddy & Terry stomp Bobby until Tom Zenk saves but Bobby decks Tom after; Larry Z d. Sting by DQ when Sting refuses to release Scorpion as Larry grips rope. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Josh d. Jim Boss; Larry Z d. Tim Parker; Young Pistols d. Lou Fabiano/Dave Johnson; Zenk d. Landell by DQ when Taylor runs in. Eaton saves; Barry Windham d. Pablo Crenshaw; (WRAPUP) [WCW WORLD TAG TITLE] Steiners d. Freebirds to win belts; (HANDICAP) El Gigante d. Pat Rose/Nasty Ned Brady; [DANGER ZONE] Paul E. w. Teddy Long. Missy shows up to toss in questions. Ron Simmons arrives & Teddy flees; (VIDEO) Nikita Koloff's dungeon workout; Lex Luger d. Joe Cruz; Vicious d. Angel; Ranger Ross d. Rip Rogers; (ANGLE) Ric Flair ambushes Ranger Ross & posts him. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: {SEGMENT} El refuses to give Missy Hyatt interview on their "date" but makes her dance with him; Sting/El d. State Patrol; Dan Spivey d. Parker; (REPLAY) DOOM split; Pistols d. Boss/Rose; Vicious d. Isley; Eaton d. Taylor when Bobby steps on Alexandra York's computer. Landell comes to the apron, Bobby ducks and Landell decks Terrence; Windham d. Brad Armstrong; (FEATURE) Nikita's workout; Ric Flair d. Tim Horner by countout. Sting comes to help Tim. Sting & Flair get into impromptu match. Nick Patrick accidentally decked. Sting d. Flair in 58 seconds when El counts fall. DRAW-PLUS.

[WCW PRO]: Pistols d. Rogers/Joe Cezana; Rhodes d. Rose; (CLIP) Zenk d. Taylor when Eaton decks Terrence; Eaton d. Landell but Taylor runs in and the 2 double on Bobby until Zenk saves but Bobby decks Zenk after; Windham d. Terry Bronson; Vicious d. Scott Allen but Brian Pillman saves Allen from stretcher & chases Sid; Sting/Luger d. Mick Fargo/Mark Kyle; (WCW WORLD TAG TITLE) Steiners d. Freebirds to win belts. DRAW-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - (CLIP) Terry Funk d. Lawler for USWA title; (SEGMENTS) 1. Eddie Marlin declares Jackie Fargo ref for Funk-Lawler USWA title match. 2. Funk declares he'll stomp the heart out of Fargo; 3. Lawler announces Monday night will be his last match for a while because of injuries; (VIDEO) Documentary retrospective on Lawler's career; Embry/Prichard d. Brad Collins/Curtis Thompson; Jarrett d. Austin but Embry/Prichard & J.C. Ice run in until Eddie Gilbert saves. RESTHOLD.

(NEW JAPAN WORLD PRO) - Keiji Muto/Masa Chono d. Tatsutoshi Goto/Super Strong Machine; Scott Norton d. Kensuke Sasaki; Masa Saito/Riki Choshu d. Axe Demolition/Bam Bam Bigelow; (6-MAN) Pegasus Kid/Masanobu Kurisu/Tiger Jeet Singh d. Seiji Aoyagi/Tatsumi Fujinami/Shiro Koshinaka. POWERSLAM.

(ALL JAPAN WEEKLY PRO) - (CLIPS) Nitron/Butch Masters d. Undertakers, Toshiaki Kawada/Tsuyushi Kikuchi d. Yoshinori Oga-wa/Akira Taue; Apocalypse/Destruction d. Jumbo Tsuruta/Mighty Inoue; Steve Williams/Terry Gordy d. Kenta Kobashi/Mitsuhara Misawa. POWERSLAM.

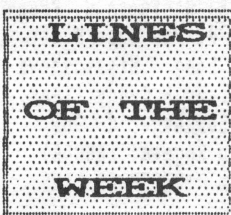
SCALE:	PINFALL!	- Must
See.	FILEDRIVER	- Excel-
lent.	POWERSLAM	- Good.
DRAW	- Average.	RESTHOLD
- Fair	BOMB	- Poor
PLUS	- Midscale rating.	

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(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Barbarian double countout vs. Greg Valentine; (SEGMENT) "Queen Elizabeth" commenting on Davey Boy Smith; (UPDATE) Sarge stretching Dale Wolfe; (WM7 REPORT); Rockers d. Brawler/Ted Oates; Bushwhackers d. Jesse Knight/Max Nelson; (SKITS) 1. Bobby Heenan fails to get full nelson on Smith. 2. Mathilda returns. 3. Paul Bearer demonstrates embalming on plastic model, then shows how to make up dead body on Alfred Hayes; Warlord d. Koko B. Ware; Hennig d. Jimmy Snuka; Ted DiBiase d. Sonny Blaze; (FEATURE) Rick Martel as tennis star plugging ARROGANCE; Jake Roberts d. Alan Martin; (MYSTERY GUEST) Big Bossman surprises Heenan & Bubba handcuffs Bobby after he insults Ma Bossman again; Mountie d. Buddy Burke; (ANGLE) Ma Bossman shows up & bashes Bobby with her pocketbook as show ends. DRAW.



1. Mick Karch, SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE, on viewer question "whatever happened to Outback Jack?": "Besides himself and his next of kin, who cares?" 2. Tony Schiavone/Gordon Solie, WWW, on Buddy Landell: (TS) "He knows as much about a computer as I do." (GS) "Yeah, he thinks if it's broken, shake it or hit it in the side." 3. Terry Funk, USWA, on Jerry Lawler: "He is proud to come from a scum dump." 4. Funk, USWA, on Jackie Fargo: "He'll count one, two and forget where three is." 5. Paul E. Dangerously, WCW: "If Missy Hyatt married Junkyard Dog, I guess we could call her Mrs. Dog and I've always said she is a dog." 6. Jim Ross, WCW, on Paul E.'s voice cracking: "You sound like Mr. Haney on GREEN ACRES." 7. Funk, USWA, on Fargo: "All he wants to do is look at the fat, greasy broads at ringside. He's a pervert." 8. Eddie Sharkey/Golden Idol, SNR, on Idol-Dale Gagner match contract: (ES) "Who wrote this? Saddam Hussein? What's this about Jina from Solid Gold?" (GI) "Whoops! Wrong contract." 9. Ross/Paul E., WCW, on Zbyszko: (JR) "He just talks and talks. He probably talks in his sleep." (PED) "I'd like to hear that conversation. He'd probably give out a good game plan." 10. Teddy Long, WCW, to Missy Hyatt: "You're dipping into mustard trying to catch up."

11. Curt Hennig, WWF-SP, on Bossman: "If you've ever seen him walking away from you, he looks like Fred Flintstone from the back." 12. Funk, USWA, on Fargo: "Maybe I'll stomp on his chest and then his heart will stop. Wouldn't that be wonderful?" 13. Jerry Clower, JERRY LAWLER SHOW, on himself/Lawler: "This is where two of a kind can whip a full house." 14. Buddy Landell, WCW: "Missy, I just want to say thanks to you and Jason for lunch at the Polo Club the other day." 15. Ross, WCW, to Paul E.: "If you defy the director, you'll be back doing radio broadcasts of Scarsdale High football." 16. Paul E., WCW, on monster mugs: "That's what Missy Hyatt has without her makeup on: a monster mug (Ha Ha Ha)!" 17. Percy (Paul) Bearer, PTW: "The preparation of a dead body takes a long time. I will give you a mini-course." 18. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Paul Bearer's embalming: "I feel as good as you (McMahon) look. I'm as sick as your outfit." 19. Heenan, PTW: "I'd hate to roll up your window at 3 in the morning and see him (Paul Bearer) looking in." 20. Heenan, PTW, on Alfred Hayes as embalming model: "The stuff you took out of the last body...can you stuff it in him?"

21. Heenan, PTW: "Martel sprayed ARROGANCE all over me and

four stewardesses from American Airlines followed me all over the airport. And I was on United." 22. Heenan, PTW, on Bossman & his mother: "He has more hair on his head than she does." 23. Ma Bossman, PTW, as she bashes Heenan w. purse: "This is for all the mothers of the world."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Karch, SNR: "Happy 65th birthday to Verne Gagne. Verne, I know you say you don't watch SNR, but I know you do." 2. Perro Aguayo, LUCHA LIBRE, on Konan's WWF-style interview: "Es no LUCHA LIBRE!" 3. Paul E., WCW: "We're gonna be in Dothan AL where fans are as illiterate as him (Big Josh)." 4. Paul E., WCW, to Missy: "You come into the DANGER ZONE and I'll slap those plastic surgery scars right off of your body." 5. Bearer/Heenan, PTW, as Bearer makes up Alfred Hayes: (PB) "We try to make them look as natural as possible." (BH) "You should have been here 63 years ago."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Paul E., WCW: "Why put off to tomorrow what you can avoid altogether." 2. Michael St. John, USWA, on Awesome Kong: "What does a man 455 pounds need with a chair?" 3. Ross, WCW: "Paul, do you and Rip Rogers go to the same hair stylist?" 4. Heenan, PTW, to Bearer: "Didn't you ever have any toys when you were a kid?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. UNCLE FESTER (Roddy Piper on Paul Bearer). 2. STRIDEX KID (Golden Idol on Dale Gagner). 3. THE BOSS (Schiavone on Alexandra York). 4. THE ABBOTT & COSTELLO OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING (Jimmy Garvin on Young Pistols). 5. THE WORLD CHAMPION OF HUMAN CHESS (Paul E. on Larry Z). 6. LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE (Teddy Long on Missy).

FORESHADOWING AWARD??? - Ric Flair, WCW: "I don't care if it's Sting...Luger....DUSTY RHODES!"

BEST FEATURES - 1. WMC, Retrospective of Lawler's career. 2. PTW, Percy demonstrating embalming. Even if it was on the awful PRIME TIME, just looking at Percy's expressions was enough to bowl me over. 3. PTW, Ma Bossman bashing Heenan.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Gordon Solie, WWW: "...all she wrote." 2. Solie, WWW: "...discretion is the better part of valor." 3. Paul E., WCW: "...close but no cigar." 4. Heenan, PTW: "...sharp as a tack."

BLOOPER AWARD - 1. Funk, USWA, on Fargo: "He has ALL-TIMERS' disease." 2. Paul E., WCW: "That's steel concrete right there."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - PTW, for billing Ted Oates as Jerry.

READER NITPICKING - Ross, WCW: "Zbyszko made his pay-per-view debut at WRESTLE WAR for WCW." I had a few calls on this one from MATWATCHers. Jim is technically right. The company has only been called WCW since TBS bought it. But Larry Z did appear on Jim Crockett/NWA PPV shows in Nov. '87 and Jan. '88.

BOO AWARD - Hulk Hogan, WWF-SU, for continuing to equate his battle with Slaughter to Scuds and Patriots.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES (Continued from Page 1)

to appear at WRESTLEMANIA VII, have canceled out of the show.

MATWATCH has been told Barr is not withdrawing over any objections to the Hulk Hogan-Slaughter angle. Barr and Arnold join NBC's Bob Costas as cancellations for the March 24 card. NBC football analyst Paul Maguire is staying on the show.

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OWEN IS IN: The long-awaited arrival of Owen Hart in WCW has finally come. Owen teamed with Ricky Morton last week in tapings and we're told he looked good.

MORE OWEN: Owen reportedly is a bit more pumped up than when we last saw him in an American ring. He also gained a squash win over Keith Hart.

THE GANG: One-Man Gang will be the substitute for the departing Butch Reed in a program against Ron Simmons and we're told Gang will come out of it looking good.

REED'S ADIEU: Reed reportedly did his final taping, if it indeed was the last, without incident, and was given a win.

MEXICAN HEAT: The next-to-last Lucha Libre card for Konan before his WWF sojourn saw a semi-shoot interview. Konan was attempting to do a WWF-style monologue when Perro Aguayo shot up to him and popped him in the face, saying in Spanish, "That's not Lucha Libre!"

RING BY COMPUTER: Steve and Norm Ruth are hawking their Computer Wrestling Federation, a computer-driven wrestling game. You can write for more details to: CWF, Inc., Route 4, Box 315-A, Marion IL 62959, or call (618) 964-1444.

DIALING FOR DICTAPHONE: Spoke with Davey Haskins, the former Bill Watts WWF and Memphis player, who later became Davey Rich (one of the Party Patrol with Johnny Rich). Dave is selling Dictaphone machines in my town of Jackson TN.

SAME STORY, ANOTHER VERSE: Dave told me it's been tough trying to carve out dates on independent circuits. He says he works an average of two to three nights a week on shows Johnny puts together. They run Athens TN on a regular basis but he says you simply can't make a living on the small tours.

MATWATCH ON APPEAL: Many thanks to Clay Bailey of THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL in Memphis for a flattering feature on me and MATWATCH on page one last Monday. One insider told me, "A lot of people have tried for 50 years to get on the front page of the paper and you did it in less than a year in Tennessee."

LAWLER'S COMMENT: Clay tried to get a quote from Jerry Lawler about newsletters and Jerry wouldn't comment, other than to say, "I deny everything that's in them." That, I guess, covers a lot of ground.

FILTERIN' JIM: Jim Cornette entering a sidelight business. He's going to be a distributor of the same kind of water and air filters Austin Idol has been successfully selling.

TOUGH CALL: Talk about changing times....at last week's WCW tapings, the Royal Family pinned Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner clean in the middle.

ACI/HERBWATCH: My good friends Mike Sawyer and Rick Carter of Audio Communications, Inc. (the WCW/WWF/LIVE WRESTLING TALK 900 number company) were both out of action sick on the same day recently....and who is it that took over the LWT line? Herb Abrams (with John Tolos). Yes, the same Herb of whom Rick's frank comment recently led to a brief suspension.

MORE HERBWATCH: Atlanta-based Show Business, Inc., a TV syndication firm, has had legit discussions with Abrams about distributing his WWF series to broadcast stations.

UPSET CITY: The evening of March 2 in the Dallas-Ft. Worth market, Gary Hart's TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING outrated the USWA Sportatorium show 2.4 to 1.9 in local ratings, the first time that kind of upset has ever happened.

YOU CAN WRITE ED: A number of long-time Georgia wrestling fans want to write former Atlanta announcer Ed Capral, particularly after his selection as MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR in the MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL. Ed has okayed us listing his address: ROUTE 6, BOX 435-A, PANAMA CITY FL 32413. He'd enjoy hearing from his former Georgia/Carolina fans (are you listening, Steve and Dick?) but Ed says, "NOT TO DO WRESTLING."

SUNCOAST STORY: Suncoast Pro drew 275 at Manatee (FL) Civic Center for TV taping March 2. In a loser-leave-Florida match, Penelope Paradise d. Debbie Drake and Gator Gilmore d. Masked Superstar by reversal. In a Southern title match, Nasty Ned Brady and Soul Force went to a double DQ and in the main event, Dick Slater d. Tommy Rogers.

NEW AT SLAMMERS: On display now at SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM in Studio City CA: private collections of Bobby Heenan and Ivan Koloff. Top SLAMMER Verne Langdon will have a tribute to Gorgeous George on his 76th birthday.

THE FINAL SHOW: Ironically, no mention was made Saturday on the WWC show of Monday night being the final USWA show in the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. The closest came when Dave Brown said before a card rundown, "Twenty years of action in the Mid-South Coliseum continues Monday night...."

THE REST OF THE STORY: Other than Funk-Lawler, Monday night had Embry/Prichard vs. Jarrett/Eddie Gilbert in a Texas death match; Dundee vs. Gaylord; a light heavyweight title rematch of Danny Davis vs. El Grande Pistolero; a 14-man battle royal; New Kids vs. Exterminators; Steve Austin vs. Curtis Thompson; Night Train Jackson vs. Keith Roberson; J.C. Ice vs. Uptown Bruno; and Cody Michaels vs. Doug Gilbert.

ANOTHER BLOOPER: In a prelim story to Saturday's WWF Capital Centre card, Frank Gavel of THE WASHINGTON TIMES referred to The Texas Tornado KEVIN Von Erich.

TITAN SATURDAY: The afternoon show in Landover drew about 7,000, with a weak Hogan-Earthquake topline in which Hogan posed longer than the match lasted. DiBiase-Virgil was said to be the best on the show.

COMING BACK: ESPN is pushing for Craig Johnson to return to the USWA Monday afternoon package sooner rather than later. Johnson has basketball commitments for at least two more weeks if George Washington University received an NIT bid.

HORTON HEARS A WHO?: Johnson, who calls basketball and lacrosse under his real name of Jon Horton, was tabbed "Tragic" Johnson by fans and coaches during the Atlantic-10 tournament.

AND FINALLY: One principal in our top HEADLINES story last week outright denied the report on my answering machine, a story which has been in at least seven newspapers I've been sent copies of, six wrestling newsletters and on two cable networks and WXIA-TV in Atlanta. Denial published. To be candid: end of interest.

MATWATCH

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RATINGS RAP

ANOTHER HOT ONE FOR WME

The six-man tag title match featuring Junkyard Dog/Ricky Morton/Tommy Rich against Bobby Eaton/Buddy Landell/Terry Taylor was enough to propel WCW MAIN EVENT to a solid victory in the Nielsen cable ratings race for the week ending March 4.

WME polled a strong 3.2 rating and 6 per cent share of audience to lead for the second straight week. The 3.2 was up 10% over the previous week.

The big surprise of the week was the strong finish of WCW POWER HOUR, the perennial also-ran. POWER HOUR gained 42% in audience over the previous week to post a 2.0 rating and 6.8 share (top share of the week) and tied its highest number since moving to a Saturday morning slot last October.

USA Network's PRIME TIME WRESTLING rebounded for an 11% gain to finish second with a 3.0/4.6.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, bolstered by a showclosing Sting/El Gigante-Ric Flair/Barry Windham angle, posted an 8% gain to wind up third at 2.8.

The biggest tumble of the week went to ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, which finished second last week but fell 25% to a 2.1 March 3.

CABLE

Week Ending March 4	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/3)	3.2	6.0	1.79 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/4)	3.0	4.6	1.64 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/2)	2.8	5.8	1.57 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/3)	2.1	5.1	1.15 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 3/2)	2.0	6.8	1.12 million

MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL

Another printing of 100 editions of the MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL: WHAT WENT WRONG? are now available. Some will go to fulfill orders which came in after the first printing was finished. But at least 72 copies are for sale.

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Though it didn't feature the technical and digital wizardry, not the audio quality of the Hogan farewell piece of last summer, Saturday's WMC/USWA retrospective on Jerry Lawler's career was perhaps the best that group has ever produced....WMC was bumped to 10:30 a.m. for the SEC basketball tourney, so for a half-hour, it was WWF vs. WCW vs. USWA on Memphis TV....Expect a semi-significant announcement in next week's MATWATCH....Our correspondent Shannon Rose is telling us the Suncoast Pro taping last week was quite lively in Florida. This is turning

out to be an enthusiastic small group....One report last week had Butch Reed going to Titan but he was still booked and reportedly appeared on WCW cards over the weekend....Lawler announced on the WMC show Saturday Monday night was to be his "final match for a while" and it did not appear to be a work. He's been wanting to slow down for a while and reportedly is suffering from a herniated disc and other assorted injuries.The WCW syndie angles involving Alexandra York's computer being damaged have been creative, to say the least....Dan Farren, please call this week. It's urgent!....During April, we'll offer a five-part series on the 50th anniversary of TV wrestling which year happens to be. We have shelved, for the time being, publishing our book on the TV history. Too expensive and existing publishers feel it's too limited in appeal. Jerry Morton, can you help?....Yet another LOVE CONNECTION date failed last week because one of the parties hated the other one's love for pro wrestling. That's two in the last two months....Why doesn't some wrestling group try to get Dick Vitale for a special show as a guest commentator? Can't you picture it now? Dick would see a flying dropkick by Tom Zenk: "Hey, babe, it's Z with one of those FDKs." Or a Barry Windham superplex: "Hey, babe, it's BW going for the SP." Craig "Tragic" Johnson could at least mimic Vitale. He just has too much hair....Terri Power is developing her own superplex for LPWA TV. She's calling it the Tower of Power....And finally, my weathercaster, Gary Pickens, on Paul E. Dangerously: "It's like he's trying to give you a drink of water and coming at you with a firehose." See you next week, FSB.

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